

C. LEO HITCHCOCK

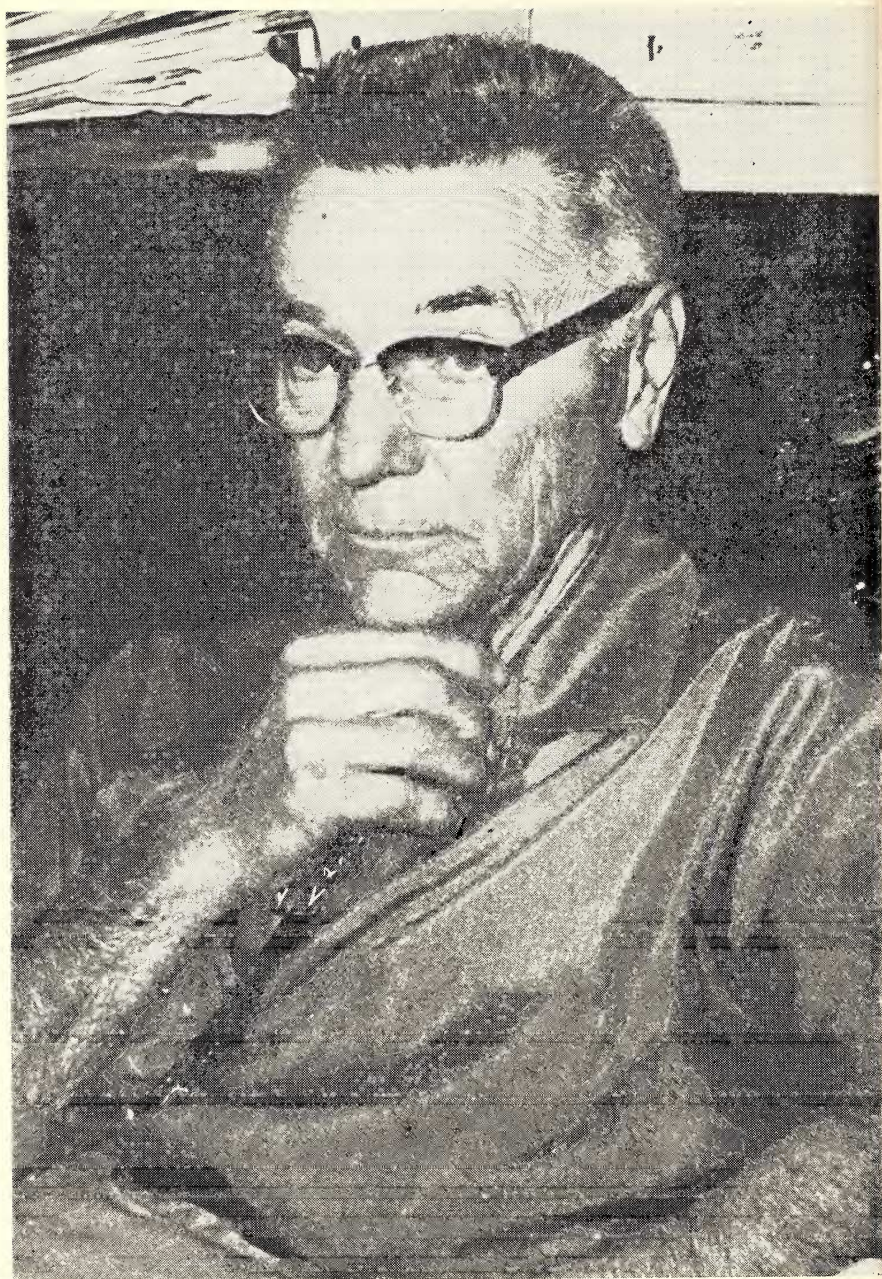
A TRIBUTE FROM THE CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY

To friends, colleagues and students he is known simply as "Hit chy." This informal nickname epitomizes Dr. C. Leo Hitchcock the man, and conjures up warm memories for the many who have known him over the years. He who tries to classify Hit chy encounters a tough taxonomic problem. The attributes of the taxon run the gamut from thorough monographer of several genera of flowering plants, writer of floristics, and peerless teacher, to long-distance backpacker, keen horticulturalist, avid 'birder,' terrific bridge-player, and formidable touch-footballer.

C. Leo Hitchcock was born (April 23, 1902) and grew up in California and so came to know that flora intimately under the tutelage and companionship of such eminent California botanists as Philip Munz, Edmund Jaeger, and Marcus E. Jones, and as well as through his frequent field trips with fellow students David Keck, George Goodman and others. Hit chy's undergraduate training was at Pomona College where he stayed on to do a Master's thesis with Dr. Munz on *Clarkia* (then, *Godetia*). He allows that he was ultimately scooped years later by Harlan Lewis.

During the time Hit chy was in college he worked in the nearby oil fields. We suspect that his earthy camaraderie may have been nurtured by association there with fellow crewmen. From Pomona, Hit chy went on to Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden, to study with J. M. Greenman; Edgar Anderson's influence on Hitchcock must be acknowledged too. His Ph.D. thesis (1931) was on the solanaceous genus *Lycium*; he is still called on to arbitrate problems in the group.

Hit chy's long and colorful teaching career started at Pomona College (1931-32); he soon moved to the University of Montana where he taught general botany and taxonomy. We still encounter former students (many now in forestry and range management) who vividly remember the demanding pace (pedagogical and physical) that Hit chy set for them, yet always generously laced with fun and games. It was at Montana that he produced a field manual on grasses and grass-like plants which showed early in his career his dual skills—as a meticulous taxonomist and as a consummate artist-draftsman. The Montana epoch also saw the beginning of the unique Summer Field Courses which Hit chy continued to run when he came to Seattle in 1937. Beginning then in the Department of Botany at the University of Washington where he soon became chairman, the legend of the man continued to grow. The remarkable 'espirit' that has made the department such a friendly, livable habitat for botanists is surely traceable to the Hitch-



DR. C. LEO HITCHCOCK

cock inoculum both while he was chairman and in more recent years when he returned to full-time teaching and research. For the many graduate students in taxonomy who began their professional careers with Hitchy, the frequent gay soirees hosted at their home by Evelyn and her man make memorable embellishments on the fabric of an educational experience with Hitchcock.

For "years and years," Hitchy has taught general botany to foresters, elementary taxonomy (local flora, a course open to and eagerly sought by all), as well as ornamental plants and advanced taxonomy. Not only have generations of young students benefited from the experience of the local flora course from Hitchy, but repeatedly through the years have adults in the continuing education program come to count on his evening and weekend offerings. And, of course, the famous Summer Field Trips continued for many years. Who could forget a typical day for the field party, camped out miles away from the nearest town? Up at 5:00 a.m. to the din of kitchen-pot cymbals and a hearty breakfast of Hitchcock pancakes or biscuits. Then with hardly a breather, off into the field they would go, students trying hard to keep up with the master who fired off binomial salvos and sundry anecdotal items about the plants in the area. All the while, his assistants were 'making hay,' putting up herbarium material in substantial replicate for the UW Herbarium and for exchange. To finish the day in camp, some violent sport, like touch football took over with Hitchy sparking the play. The years that *Draba* was being monographed, each Summer Field Class literally ran up and down most of the high peaks in the West.

During the war years when there was little demand for classes in taxonomy, Hitchy and his close friend and field companion, Clarence V. Muhlick used their rationed gas to put up thousands of plants from the most inaccessible places throughout the Pacific Northwest. These collections have formed the solid nucleus for floristic study of the region. Nearly every major herbarium in the U. S. and elsewhere surely have "Hitchcock and Muhlick" sheets—always skillfully prepared (including pressed mosquitos) and amply documented.

In the early 1950's, Hitchcock joined his taxonomic talents with those of Arthur Cronquist, Marion Ownbey, and J. W. Thompson to begin the projected five-volume illustrated flora of the Pacific Northwest. One by one the volumes have appeared, beginning with Volume 5 (the Compositae by Cronquist), and culminating in 1969 with Volume 1. Modesty would get in the way of Hitchy's accounts of his contribution to this monumental work, but we all well know that he has been the chief and most persistent organizer-catalyst-editor-caretaker of the project as well as author of many substantial families in the flora. The botanical public will be pleased to know that a one-volume abridgement is nearing completion; Hitchy, again in collaboration with Cronquist, has devoted his energies to all phases of this long-awaited condensation.

So we salute you, C. Leo Hitchcock. We wish you many more years of productive taxonomic output, and hope the years ahead also give you ample time for gardening, for responding to the seasonal call of the game birds, and for the perpetual rejuvenation that you may deservedly derive from continued contact with your many, many friends—students, fellow botanists, neighbors, and all others who have drawn from your well of friendship. — A. R. K.

IRIS PSEUDACORUS IN WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

PETER H. RAVEN and JOHN H. THOMAS

Iris pseudacorus L. has been well established in swamps and other wet habitats in eastern North America for nearly a century (Cody, 1961). In western North America this showy, yellow-flowered *Iris* is of more recent introduction, and as in the east seems destined to spread even farther.

Preece (1964) has reported it from several localities in western Montana and it has since become increasingly more common in glacial pot-holes, along ditches, and marshy areas in the Mission Valley in Lake Co. (*Thomas 11020*, DS, US; *Woodland 319*, DS). In British Columbia it is known from Lulu I., near Vancouver (*Beamish & Vrugtman 60540*, OSC). In Oregon it has been found in Columbia Co. (*Wolrod s. n.*, OSC) and in Benton Co. (*Merkle & Merkle s. n.*, OSC).

Hitchcock, et al. (1969), in summary, recorded this species in this Pacific Northwest as "well established in our area in many lakes and ponds and along rocky stream banks."

In California the first record was probably that of Mason (1957), who reported *I. pseudacorus* from Merced Co. Subsequently Rubtsoff (1959) recorded it from Forestville, Sonoma Co. (*Rubtsoff 1836*, CAS, RSA; *1258*, CAS; *1813*, CAS; *1549*, CAS; *1946*, CAS). Other California localities are: Searsville, San Mateo Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959; Thomas, 1961) (*Thomas 7165*, CAS, DS; *9221*, DS); Mettlers Station, Kern Co. (Munz, 1969; Twisselmann, 1963; 1967) (*Twisselmann 8028*, CAS); near Yountville, Napa Co. (*Thomas 15027*, DS); Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959; Thomas, 1961) (*Hesse 2764*, DS) near Montague, Siskiyou Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959) (*Howell 28360*, CAS); and Lyons Springs, Ventura Co. (Rubtsoff, 1959) (*Pollard s. n.*, CAS).

Mason (1959) remarked that *I. pseudacorus* "is apparently moving down the watercourses." This prediction has been fulfilled. T. C. Fuller, of the California Department of Agriculture, has told us that there are dense colonies of this species all along the Merced River in Merced Co. Along Dana Slough west of Snelling, Fuller noted that this *Iris* was the